

Roleker Alfred. (231)

New York Feb 14, 1874,

Feb 16/74

Acknowledgy recps of
decision of our Committee
with regard to collection
of Pictures.

✓

LOUIS WINDMÜLLER & ROELKER,
Commission Merchants
NEW YORK.

February 14th 1874.

Wm. H. Lead, Esq.
Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir

Your favor of yesterday communicating the decision of your Art Committee is to hand. —

You will excuse my mentioning that my friend anticipates this decision, since your former letter gave the name of the gentleman to whom the matter had been referred in this city. —

Yours truly
Alfred Roelker

Aug 16 New York Feb 16/24
Feb 17/24.

(232)

Wishes to sell Busts
Prosperine & Generina by
Powers.
Encloses copy of a letter
from Genl Preston, giving
the merits of them.

New York February 16th/24
19. E. 31st S^t

Mr. W. W. Corcoran

Dear Sir

As I am personally
unknown to you even by name, I must
beg to refer you to Senator Goldthwaite
of Alabama, or to Col^r P. Phillips of Wash-
ington as to who I am as also my respon-
sibility for what I propose to offer. I have
been entrusted by my friend Genl John
I. Preston to dispose of two busts by
Hiram Powers the Sculptor, & knowing
your taste in matters of art, presumed
I might take the liberty of addressing
you, & making an offer of them before
they were offered to the public. These
Busts were done expressly as a gift

to Mrs. Preston by the artist, & highly
valued as long as they could adorn a
Name, that being broken up & having
no way of keeping them properly, the
family are desirous of disposing of
them. The enclosed copy of a letter
from Genl. Preston will give you the merits
of these models valuable souvenirs of
the genius of the Sculptor, & say more
for them than I could. I would call
your attention to the beauty of the Pe-
destals which accompany them, These
were modeled by Powers himself & execu-
ted by one of his best workmen, under
his special supervision, I understand.
They are exquisitely executed, & cost
two hundred dollars a piece. The Busts
are "Proserpine" & "Generra". I have

Photographs of them should you desire
to see them. The Proserpine is perfect,
but the Generra was injured by some of
Genl Sherman's bayonets when his army
invaded Columbia, this of course impairs
the value of it as a work of art, close inspec-
tion will show the picks of the bayonet
even in these imperfect Photographs -
The 'Proserpine' is valued at 1200 dollars
& the injured Generra at 400 - Should
you desire to become the purchaser will
you be kind enough to write me to the
following address Mrs C Aug 19. 2. 31st S^h
& may I ask you will consider this con-
fidential until something is determined,
as I think Genl P would prefer it not
being made public for the present.

Most respectfully yours
M. Aug 1

Extract from a letter from Genl. John S.
Preston of South Carolina.

In the Year 1836 or

1837 I met Horace Powers in Washington
at the house of my brother William Preston
and other Southern members of Congress. He
was at work in the Capitol, and invited me
to his Studio. I went often, and became
deeply interested by the enthusiasm & genius
he manifested for his art and his simple but
charming personal qualities. One day said to him,
Powers go to Italy, to refine your genius amid the
marvels of Ancient Art. Tears filled his eyes as
he replied: It is my dream - would to God could.
He was warmly attached to my brother, who had helped
him get some order at Washington. I authorized
my brother to tell him, if he would go to Italy
I would furnish the means. It was arranged -
I advanced him every dollar he took with him -
and something for his necessary expenses -
I retained these advances for a number of years.
I do not recollect how many. His gratitude
was boundless and our friendship most cordial.
In 1846 I went to Florence, and took him
in my carriage to Rome. The first time he had been
there. He was poorer in money & fame. He made
the "Fee" for me & would not accept one dollar in
compensation - He sent Mr. Preston his first effort
at a classical head after he went to Italy and twenty

Years after sent her his original first "Roseline"
as his most elaborately finished work, and
the culmination of the genius we had had the
happiness of aiding in its first efforts. These
precious gifts were accompanied by letters of the
most ardent and gracefully expressed gratitude -
In our necessity after the war, we paid the "Eve"
to A. T. Stewart for \$10,000.⁰⁰ he begged for a
reduction of \$500⁰⁰ and we gave it him for \$4500⁰⁰
It is now worth \$20,000⁰⁰ It is Powers grandest work -
Thorwaldson praised it and he left the impress of
his hand on the model -

We now offer the busts for sale because we need money and
have no fitting place for their preservation -
The "Generra" was sacred with Powers as his first effort in
Italy and therefore he gave it to my wife. The Roseline
he worked on for her for years - to exhibit to her the result -
and his appreciation of her and her husband's dues
to the poor Artist, and as a testimony of long un-
dying affectionate friendship -

We part with them under the deep shadow
of the feeling that comes of these circumstances.

Crown W^m

233

Nottingham England.

Nov: 4. 1873.

Wishes to sell some
pictures.



COCORAN GALLERY OF ART,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 6 days.

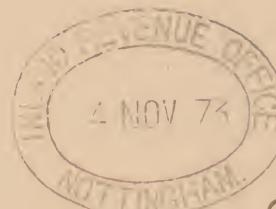
W^m Cronin.
8 Nottingham.
England
Nov: 4/73.

Not being my old pen

in conclusion I beg to add
that I am prepared to give
any guarantee required as to
its genuineness and a satisfactory
account of when and
how it came into Mr. Boys's
possession.

Yours
Sir
Obediently yours
W^m Cronin
Collector

The Director
of the Museum
Washington U.S.



233
Nov 17. 1873
England.

Sir.

Having noticed in one of
our local Papers that high
class pictures are now being
purchased for your Museum,
May I invite your attention to
a really fine gallery specimen
now in my possession, which I
wish to dispose of.

It is a magnificient Land-
scape by the Elder State, dated
and signed.

Subject, The Holy Family
exposing by the way.

They are in the foreground

- the glimpse of a City in the distance - with ruins and majestic trees to the left - all elaborated in Paintings most finished manner; and the entire picture in the most perfect preservation ..

It was formerly the property of Mr. Boys of Bannow, Co. Wexford, Ireland, and the favorite, out of all in the gallery of his closest friend Thomas Moore, my country's pride as a Poet.

Mr Boys left it by will,

to his land agent Mr Dillon, upon whose decease recently, it became my property --

If such a work there be fit for acquisition, by the Trustees of your Museum, I shall be glad to hear from you on the subject.

The picture is at present in the hands of Mr Holder Pictures Cleaner and Restorer 33 Brewer Street, Golden Square, London, who will readily show it to any judge you may authorise to inspect it, and

Newark, N.J. Dec. 25th/73

Mr. W. W. Gorcoran, Washington, D.C.

Respected Sir

I was in New York
yesterday and had the pleasure
of seeing W^m. C. Bryant Esq^t (Poet)
he remembered distinctly the
pleasure it gave him when
viewing the allegorical painting
of "Truth unmasking Falsehood".
Enclosed you will find a
note from him on the subject.

234
Enclosed N. W.
Newark N.J. Dec 25/73.
Rec'd Dec 24/73

Encloses a letter from
W^m. C. Bryant upon the
subject of "Mrs Spencers
picture of Smith unmasking
Falsehood."

Respectfully

My dear Mr. Garrison

How sad Mr. & myself

feel at the death of our friend
Mr. Macauley, it came upon
me like a thunderbolt. I cannot yet
realize his departure, we but knew
him to love him & lose him. It
must be a warning voice to us to cherish
our friends, and Mr. Farnous friends while
they are with us, how long they can
remain we know not.

Please do not forget the promised date
of the historic event connecting yourself and Mr.
with Mr. Garrison at an early period of distinction

Eustace - Mr. Hale joins me in

affectionate regards and esteem

Yours truly

A. W. Anderton

Office of the Evening Post,
New York Dec. 22^d 1873

I remember the allegorical picture
of Truth Unveiling falsehood painted
by Mrs. Lily M. Spencer, when that
lady was in this city. It struck me
very agreeably at the time both as respects
the design and the execution, and I
should be very glad to have it if it had
been obtained by some public gallery.
If the trustees of the Washington Art
Gallery have the subject brought before
them I hope they will not decide against
possessing it until some one of their number
has seen it.

W. C. Bryant.

Thompson Julius L. (235)
Paris Nov 17/73

Offers service to select
Foreign
works of art for
the
National Gal-
lery.

Answered Feb. 23/74

Mr Corcoran (to Dr. C. H. C. Clark)
Dear Sirs
I have heard of
your intention to purchase pictures
in Europe for your Washington Art
Gallery and I write to you with
the hope that you may commission
me to aid you in the selection,
for which I have peculiar advantages
and facilities. I am sure you
will be pleased to hear that my
daughter is known, as one of the
most promising young artists
in Paris, two pictures of hers, hav-
ing been accepted for the last
exposition, when the number was
limited to one thousand and

five thousand works of art were refused - Her master, Leon Bonnat is one of the most eminent figure painters in the world, and offered to instruct her on account of her superior talent -

We live in the artists quarter and in the same house with twenty artists - Several of them distinguished in their profession among them are Diaz, Jacques and Seign-Perrin - We are acquainted with a number of well-known artists and I think I could be useful to you in forming your collection.

My object in seeking employment is to give to my daughter every advantage in

the studies of painting, which she intends to prosecute strenuously and assiduously - This, I cannot do, without some addition to my income, which has been much reduced by the war.

I regretted not being able to see you when we were in Washington last summer - We were there but two days and while you were out of town, but I was pleased to learn that you were improved in health - My daughter uniting with me in kind regards.

Very affectionately yours
John Latimer Tomskins

Bruff. J. G. (236)
Jan'y 2. 1874

Jan'y 2. /74,
Offers painting of "Braddock
Defeat" by Lelarge for sale,

✓

To The Trustees of the Corcoran Art Gallery: -

Gentlemen.

Permit me to call your attention to a large painting of great merit, and of a memorable event in the early life of Washington. It is Braddock's Defeat, by Leutze. The landscape from nature, and the details of the circumstance as perfect as the record of that extraordinary affair, and of the heroism of the noble young soldier. I have examined it with much admiration, as such an admirable representation of the event - one that stamped Washington as a great hero, with every quality of an eminent commander, at the early age of 22. Referring to this, in an Address I am preparing to deliver on the 22d. Feby: I allude to it as follows: - "The command was suddenly assaulted by a murderous fire, from ambuscading French and Indians, from the front and right, killing and wounding more than half of the command, and producing the wildest confusion! In a brief time, Braddock had 5 horses killed under him, and fell, mortally wounded, while attempting to mount the 6th. Washington had 2 horses killed under him, and his clothes riddled with rifle-balls."

Mr. Mullett, the Architect, has it in one of his rooms at the Treasury; but authorized me, for the owner, (he has no interest in it whatever) - to call your attention to it, that you may secure such a valuable acquisition.

I am, Most Respectfully,
Yours truly,

J. Goldborough Bruff

Jan^t. 2^d. 1874.

{ 1009 - 21st St. N.Y.
{ door No. 47.

Bonff, J. G.

236^{1/2}

29 Jan'y 174,

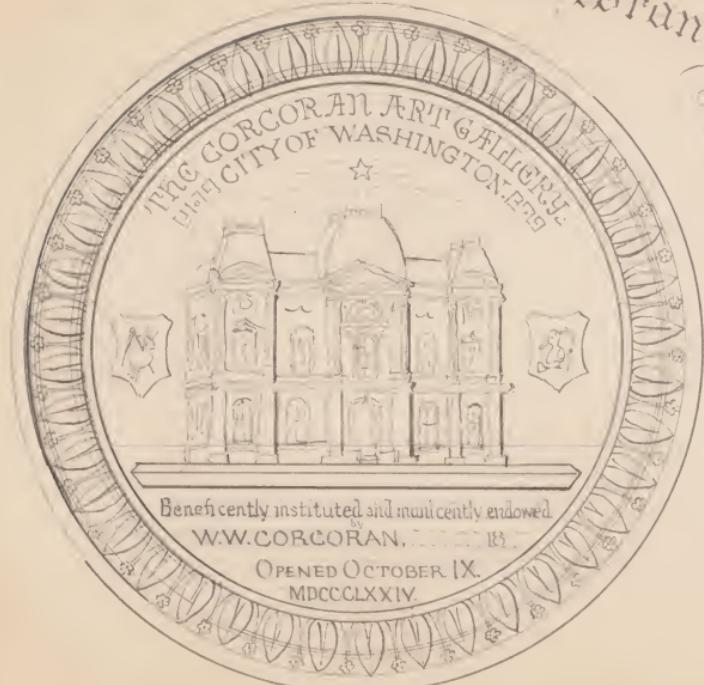
Design for Medal 8c.

COPCOBAN GALLERY OF ART,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

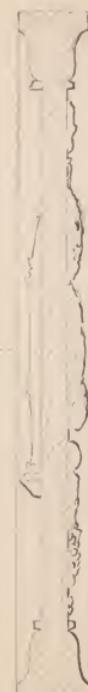
286 1/2

Medal commemorating the found^d and opening of
The Corcoran

Designed by J.G. Bruff.



SECTION.



Gallery of Arts.

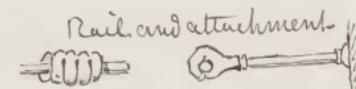


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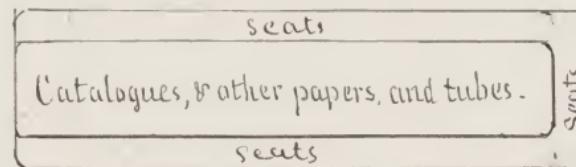
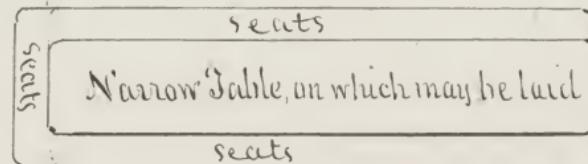
236 $\frac{1}{2}$

Railing

~ PLAN ~
~ Picture - Gallery ~



Railing



Railing

(An off-hand drawing, without scale of proportions.)

Railing

Entrance

Railing

Bruff.

236 1/2

Jan 6
Washington 29th 1874.

To W.W. Corcoran, Esq:

Dear Sirs,

Please find, enclosed, a Design for a Medal, to commemorate the Founding and Opening of the Art Gallery. It has ever been a very proper custom, in Europe, and some instances of it in our own country, of commemorating important Art Establishments by suitable Medals, which become valued and interesting Souvenirs, - prized by lovers of Art, as well and Numismatics. This, - of your munificence and admiration of Art, - so worthy of you, as of adorning the National Capital, and destined to become a very important Institution, and to immortalize your name in the records of Art & Fame, ought, assuredly, to be so commemorated. - For which purpose, I have, in a hurried manner, prepared a sketch of a Design: in which, the representation of the Building and the Portrait are not, as will be seen, any thing like likenesses, but merely indicators of their positions on the medal, when the medalist obtains the correct approved models for copying. Excuse the roughness of the production, due, not only to hurried work, but to worn-out eyes, glasses, and instruments.

P.S. Such medal, done in white metal and bronze,
would be eagerly sought after, command a ready
sale, and soon, more than pay the expenses of
their production. \$

I am Sir, most Respectfully,

Yours, very truly

J. Goldsborough Buff

(237)
Cox, Anne J.
Feb. 3. 1874

Rec'd Feb 6/74,

Offers an Oil Painting
for sale.

✓

Aug 28th 1882

Aug 29th 1882

For Miss
M. A.

383. 3d

Washington D.

Believe me very truly yours
Wm. H. Brewster
My friend Mr. Brewster
will be glad to supply you
with "The American Ornithology"
that I have the pleasure to send
you for inspection. If you
are not particularly interested
in the latter I will be
glad to

send you "Birds of New England"
which is much

the better of

Carlisle J. M. (238)

Recd Feb 2, 1874,

Enclosing a letter from
G. A. Matile, with one
from H. Freedeman, offering
a picture for sale.

J

W. Baymire Jr.

W. Baymire Jr.

W. Baymire Jr.

My dear Sir
Enclosed I send you a com-
munication from Mr Matile
the Secretary of the American
and Spanish Commission
concerning a letter from a friend
which will explain itself.
Will you please file these
and lay them before the
Board at a ~~its~~ first meeting.

From: J. M. Carlisle,
President.

Dear Sir:

I am very much obliged to you indeed, for the free admission to the Corcoran Gallery tendered me by your letter of 17th inst. My first intention was to express to you my thanks at the first meeting of the Spanish and American Commission. But I have an occasion to do it now.

Enclosed please find a letter of an old friend of mine. Please read it, and, if you think it proper, submit it to the Board.

I have seen the picture, and think it would be a first rate jewel in any gallery, both in

the new and old world. It is not large, nor placed in a conspicuous frame, two things which in the eyes of many are defects. But it asks for judges as it is, and will find them here).

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
your obedt Servt.

G. A. Matile

Washington, Jan'y 28. 1874.

My dear Friend,

I read in a newspaper that the Washington Art-Gallery has been opened to the public. You recollect of having seen in my house that beautiful Italian picture which by any artist ^{and connoisseur} this ^{so much} admired: Do you think this picture could be allowed to be put on exhibition in the said Gallery and do you suppose that such an exhibition might result in the sale of the picture? The picture was never before exhibited anywhere neither in this country nor in Europe. You remember that the picture belongs to a Countess of — — who wishes to part with the picture to obtain the means for finishing the education of her children. The picture was formerly in the gallery of that celebrated Fugger in Augsburg and from there has come by inheritance in the possession of the mentioned Countess who is a cousin of mine. By aristocratic prejudices or according to noble ethics not wishing that anybody should find out that she was obliged to sell the picture to obtain money she requested me to try to sell the picture in this country which however I find difficult

on

on account of the high prize which Raulbach
in München, whose opinion about the matter
was solicited, had set down for it; the Americans
not yet appreciating nor understanding such
pictures; & have often been therefore advised
to send the picture to England where they know
more of art and have also the money for its expend
for it. I would now like to have the picture
on different exhibitions and will even wait for
the centennial exhibition, before I would send
the picture back to Europe.

If the picture could be exhibited at Washington,
I had of course to get a security for getting
it back again and that it would not be stolen
or injured.

According to your answer I will bring the
picture or not.

My family is doing well enough to be con-
sidered with them; they send their best regards
to you and the Schurz family and I remain
in all friendship

respectfully yours
Hermann Friedmann

Recd. Feb. 2nd

Answered Feb. 23rd

Ingalls, W.

(239) ^{23/143}
Technic
Original. No. 23

Ansrd Feb 23/74

Offers pictures - to be
placed in gallery,

declined

declined

transit or land.

Carrie Allen

the same

and independent & have
been fully made to stand
under her own power;

Mr. Ingalls, Carr

Kennedy, P. M.

(240)

Cincinnati Feb 12/74,

Recd Feb. 16/74

With regard to pictures
he wishes to sell,

Recd. Feb. 16/74

Answered Feb. 23 ..

✓

N. Cincinnati

College Hill, Ohio

12th February 1874

W^m Macleod Esq^r Washington
Dear Sir

I am favoured with your letter of the 28th ulto,
regarding my proposal of the Pictures referred to in
my letter. If you can oblige me with a line as to
the time your Art Committee will meet, will
esteem it greatly. The "Brekken Kamp" is
now with Mess^t. Robert Clark & C^o 4th Cincinnati
where any of the Committee could see it, & if
they are connoisseurs I feel satisfied that their decision
will pronounce this Picture as unequalled in quality
of Art in this Country. The "Rabens" can also
be seen at Mess^t Clarke & C^o. The Portrait of
Henrietta Maria by A Vandyck I can have
with it, if you will inform me as to the time.
I live in the Country 7 miles from Cincinnati
and could bring the Vandyck when coming
to the City

Yours very
J. M. Kennedy